December 12th, 2018

The Honorable Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Titus,

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, to applaud you for introducing the Weekends Without Hunger Act of 2018 (H.R. 7185). This important legislation will fill existing gaps in critical child nutrition programs for our nation's low-income, food insecure children.

As you know, food insecurity is a devastating reality for 12.5 million—or 1 in 6—children across the country. For these children, many of whom are already exposed to the harmful effects of poverty, this inconsistent access to enough healthy food creates yet another obstacle to their ability to learn, grow, and thrive. Child Nutrition Programs such as the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program, and Summer Food Service Program are instrumental in ensuring that such children can count on a nourishing meal at school or at a congregate feeding site in the summer. But for many children, hunger and food insecurity remain a threat over the weekends and during extended holidays.

The Weekend Without Hunger Act addresses this problem by establishing pilot feeding programs on the weekends and holidays and increasing flexibilities so that children can bring program commodities home. This pilot will allow policymakers to measure the efficacy of extending the school meal programs as a tool for combatting food insecurity in eligible low-income children. By seeking to solve the problem of "meal gaps" on weekends and holidays, H.R. 7185 represents a significant investment in the nutrition, health, and futures of millions of children. We appreciate your leadership in proposing this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you on this significant issue.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley

Bruce Lesley
President